

HEIRS OF CHARLES COMB.

JANUARY 4, 1832.

Mr. BULLARD, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the petition of the children of Charles Comb, and of his wife Margueritte Lavoilet, have had the same under consideration, and report:

That the evidence shows a settlement and cultivation of a tract of land in the county of Attakapas, Louisiana, several years before the change of Government, by Louis Dozé, and Margueritte Lavoilet, his wife; that they continued for many years to live on said land, when Dozé died without children: that his widow afterwards married Charles Comb, and had three children when she died; and Comb continues to occupy the land. The committee concur with the former committee in opinion, that the land should be given to the children, and adopt the report formerly made as a part of this; and report a bill for their relief.

FEBRUARY 11, 1830.

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the petition of Charles Comb, or Cohm, report:

That, from the evidence accompanying said petition, it appears that about thirty-one or two years ago, one Louis Dozé, and his wife Margaret, settled on a certain tract of land in the Attakapas country, now embraced in the State of Louisiana; that they continued to reside on and cultivate said land for eight or nine years, when said Louis Dozé died, leaving, (as the committee are informed) no children; that said Margaret remained on said land about a year, when she intermarried with the petitioner; that the petitioner and his said wife resided on and cultivated the tract of land aforesaid, for about eleven years, when she died, having had, by said last marriage, three children; and that the petitioner has remained on, and continued to cultivate, said land ever since. It further appears that the land, when settled by Dozé, was public property, and that the failure to have it entered and claimed, as provided by the acts of Congress, arose from a total ignorance of the parties of the existence of those acts.

The committee have no hesitation in recommending that the claim for this land should be confirmed, but *to whom* is a question they have some difficulty in determining. They cannot consent to make the petitioner the sole heir of both his wife and her first husband. Under all the circumstances, and particularly as Dozé left no children, your committee have concluded that the claims of justice and charity would be better satisfied by confirming the title to this property to the children of the said Margaret, who, doubtless, shared in the toils and labor incident to the settlement and cultivation, which are the foundation of the claim; and, for this purpose, they report a bill.

REPORT

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the petition of the children of Charles Combs, and of his wife Margaret Combs, have the honor to report, and say:

That the evidence shows a settlement and cultivation of a tract of land in the county of Attakapas, Louisiana, several years before the change of Government by Louis Dozé and Margaret Combs, his wife; that they continued for many years to live on said land, when Dozé died without children; that his widow afterwards married Charles Combs, and had three children, when she died; and Combs continues to occupy the land. The committee in opinion, that the land should be given to the children, and adopt the report formerly made as a part of said report a bill for their relief.

FEBRUARY 11, 1830.

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the petition of Charles Combs, or Combs, report:

That, from the evidence accompanying said petition, it appears that about thirty-one or two years ago, one Louis Dozé, and his wife Margaret, settled on a certain tract of land in the Attakapas country, now embraced in the State of Louisiana; that they continued to reside on and cultivate said land for eight or nine years, when said Louis Dozé died, leaving, (as the committee are informed) no children; that said Margaret remained on said land about a year, when she intermarried with the petitioner; that the petitioner and his said wife resided on and cultivated the tract of land aforesaid, for about eleven years, when she died, having had, by said last marriage, three children; and that the petitioner has remained on and continued to cultivate said land ever since. It further appears that the land, when settled by Dozé, was public property, and that the failure to have it entered and claimed, as provided by the acts of Congress, arose from a total ignorance of the parties of the existence of those acts.